

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 20-23 and 28-34 without prejudice. Please amend claims 24 and 27. Please add new claims 35-51. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

1.-16. (Canceled)

17. (Withdrawn) A tissue graft composition comprising gelled liver basement membrane tissue of a warm-blooded vertebrate, added nutrients, and added cells wherein the gelled liver basement membrane tissue is seeded with the cells prior to implantation of the graft composition into the warm-blooded vertebrate.

18. (Withdrawn) The tissue graft composition of claim 17 wherein the gelled liver basement membrane is prepared by adjusting the pH of a solution of fluidized liver basement membrane tissue and added nutrients to about 6.0 to about 7.4.

19. (Withdrawn) The tissue graft composition of claim 17 wherein the composition is useful as a non-immunogenic tissue graft composition capable of inducing endogenous tissue growth when implanted into the warm-blooded vertebrate.

20.-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) A method for inducing the formation of endogenous tissue at a site in need of endogenous tissue growth in a warm-blooded vertebrate, the method comprising the step of implanting a graft composition comprising an extracellular matrix in an amount effective to induce endogenous tissue growth at the site in need of the tissue growth wherein the matrix comprises gelled liver basement membrane tissue of a warm-blooded vertebrate and wherein the liver basement membrane is substantially free of endogenous cells associated with said liver basement membrane ~~at the site in need of endogenous tissue growth in an amount effective to induce endogenous tissue growth.~~

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the graft composition is implanted surgically.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the gelled liver basement membrane tissue is seeded with exogenous cells prior to implantation of the graft composition into the warm-blooded vertebrate.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24, ~~further comprising the steps of preparing~~ wherein the gelled liver basement membrane tissue is prepared by providing a solution of fluidized liver basement membrane tissue and ~~added,~~ adding nutrients, and gelling the solution by adjusting the pH of the solution to about 6.0 to about 7.4.

28.-34. (Canceled)

35. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the graft composition is implanted in the form of a wound dressing.

36. (New) The method of claim 24 further comprising the step of removing the cells by treating the liver basement membrane with a cell dissociation solution selected from the group consisting of a chaotropic agent, an enzyme, and a calcium-chelating agent.

37. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the graft composition further comprises a growth factor.

38. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the growth factor is selected from the group consisting of fibroblast growth factor, epidermal growth factor, platelet derived growth factor, transforming growth factor, and hepatocyte growth factor.

39. (New) The method of claim 24 further comprising the step of sterilizing the liver basement membrane.

40. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein the liver basement membrane is sterilized using a peracid.

41. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the graft composition further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of a mineral, an amino acid, a sugar, a peptide, a protein, and a glycoprotein.

42. (New) A method for inducing the formation of endogenous tissue at a site in need of endogenous tissue growth in a warm-blooded vertebrate, the method comprising the step of administering a graft composition comprising an isolated extracellular matrix in an amount effective to induce endogenous tissue growth at the site in need of the tissue growth wherein the isolated matrix comprises gelled liver basement membrane tissue of a warm-blooded vertebrate.

43. (New) The method of claim 42 wherein the graft composition is administered surgically.

44. (New) The method of claim 42 wherein the gelled liver basement membrane tissue is seeded with exogenous cells prior to administration of the graft composition into the warm-blooded vertebrate.

45. (New) The method of claim 42 wherein the gelled liver basement membrane tissue is prepared by providing a solution of fluidized liver basement membrane tissue, adding nutrients, and gelling the solution by adjusting the pH of the solution to about 6.0 to about 7.4.

46. (New) The method of claim 42 wherein the graft composition is administered in the form of a wound dressing.

47. (New) The method of claim 42 wherein the graft composition further comprises a growth factor.

48. (New) The method of claim 47 wherein the growth factor is selected from the group consisting of fibroblast growth factor, epidermal growth factor, platelet derived growth factor, transforming growth factor, and hepatocyte growth factor.

49. (New) The method of claim 42 further comprising the step of sterilizing the liver basement membrane.

50. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein the liver basement membrane is sterilized using a peracid.

51. (New) The method of claim 42 wherein the graft composition further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of a mineral, an amino acid, a sugar, a peptide, a protein, and a glycoprotein.